

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9 November 2011 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendments with respect to independent claims 1,36,44 and 47 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1,2 and 4-49 has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 9 November 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claims 50,52 and 53, the lower annotated drawing of page 16 depicts the correct interpretation of Lehe's Fig. 15. Applicant asserts that features of Figures 15 and 16 have been improperly combined with features of Fig. 2, particularly that an inter-engaging arrangement was incorporated into the Fig. 15 embodiment. However, no such combination has been made. The embodiment of Fig. 15 itself provides the inter-engaging arrangement, as clearly shown in exploded fragmentary view of Fig. 16. The reference to Fig. 2 was merely done to indicate to Applicant the location of element (34) with respect to overall centrifugal pump. Lastly, the recitation of plate was incorrect and

was the result of overuse of the find and replace function of Microsoft Word. The examiner apologizes for the inaccuracy and this issue has been corrected in the instant Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 50,52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lehe et al. (5,427,498), hereinafter "Lehe". Lehe discloses a centrifugal pump including, in at least one embodiment, a pump insert (34) having an inner surface defining a portion of the pump volute that is coupled to the pump casing (1), adjacent the suction branch, i.e. the pump inlet, through the use of an inter-engaging profiled coupling arrangement, i.e. a "bayonet mounting". (See Figs. 15 & 16). The insert (34) provides a flow path between the suction branch, i.e. inlet, and the pump impeller (6). (note Fig. 2). The pump includes a casing closure element (29) forming a portion of the pump suction branch sealing arrangement that is secured against the pump casing insert. (See Fig. 15).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1,2 and 4-49 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The instant invention is deemed to be a non-obvious improvement in the art of pumps including multiple clamped housing parts. The improvement comprises the use, and associated method of assembly, of a pump housing/casing, a pump insert and a pump casing closure element arranged such that (1) the pump casing closure element is secured between the pump insert and the pump casing, and (2) the pump insert is clamped between the pump casing and the pump casing closure element. This double clamping/overlapping aspect is not known in nor would it have been obvious from the prior art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NATHANIEL WIEHE whose telephone number is (571)272-8648. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. and alternate Fri., 7am-4:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on (571)272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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